



Man's Primitive Love of Thrilling Strife Makes Crowds Applaud Daring Work By Those Who Depict Dangers of the Range



(By W. C. E. Pruitt.)
What is the appeal, to the thousands of average American citizens who journey to Pendleton, each year to witness the Round-up, in the riding of a bucking horse, the roping of a wild steer, or the bull-dogging of a Texas Long Horn, the three primal attractions of the frontier exhibition? Any one or all three of these things can be seen almost any day in the cow country, and on the open ranges. Is it the latest response to the call of the wild?

Fully one-half of the people who stand on their feet and yell themselves hoarse during the bucking contest, do not know the difference between an outlaw, a trained buckner and a show buckner, the three classes of bucking horses of the Round-up and the ranges.

There are many phases of the bucking contest which are interesting but slightly understood. A champion horse gives an exhibition of less than forty-five seconds' duration. Generally speaking the best horse will unload his man within thirty seconds or not at all. Then again the old accepted



theory that a horse which lowers his nose between his front feet and goes to it is a hard buckner has long been exploded. He is a good show buckner, but for hard riding cannot compare with the trained buckner or outlaw with his head in the air, tail up and all four feet off the ground making



the high dive, the double or the side-wind, the corker or any other of the real fancy feats of the hard bucking horse. While the audience is going into three different kinds of cat fits over the persistent efforts of a show buckner to unload his man the judges smile tolerantly and let him go. The pick-up men are slow to act and generally let the horse wear himself out, which takes perhaps two minutes. The audience has got its money's worth and the rider has perhaps got his daylight's fared loose, but otherwise no damage has been done. The outlaw is of the same persistent

ent type as the show buckner but he varies his stunts. If he can't unload his man one way he tries another, and still another, until he wins or the pick-ups pull the rider from the saddle. While the judges may allow a show buckner to work as long as he feels so inclined, the outlaw is never permitted to run over forty-five seconds and if he works good from the first jump he is generally relieved of his burden within thirty seconds. To permit him to go longer would spoil him; that is, it would make him mean and he might become a "fall back," the most dreaded and dangerous of all bucking horses.

The trained buckner is the middle class between the outlaw and the show-buckner. He is sometimes a champion horse and sometimes only a semi-final. The show buckner is never a semi-final. The term "trained," when used in this connection, is an absolute misnomer. The process of this training is very simple and when one can readily see how the horse is not trained but simply encouraged and induced to excel in his wicked ways. The cowboy in breaking out the spring herd gets on a horse that does some new or fancy or difficult stunt. No effort is made to ride him after this. He is allowed to rest up a day and then is saddled with a slip short cinch; that is, a cinch that will sleep so the saddle is not secure. The horse is turned loose and allowed to buck the saddle off, generally sliding it off over his rump so that it tangles up with his hind feet; and this makes him wild. For perhaps three days he is allowed to rid himself of the saddle in this manner. During all this time he is closely watched for any new or difficult trick.

Now suppose the horse shows a tendency towards developing the high dive, one of the biggest bucking stunts known to the range. He is saddled securely but a slip knot is put in the cinch to which is attached a long rope so that when the man jerks the rope the saddle is loosened and comes off. Now the buckner is given his head. Away he goes. The second that he makes the high dive the rope is jerked and he sends the saddle into the air. This is repeated for three or four days, always the saddle being slipped

when he makes the high dive, or whatever stunt he excels in. Notice of this sort of thing the horse learns that he can rid himself of the saddle by making the high dive. Consequently, the next time the saddle is put on him he eliminates all the intermediate stunts and plunges into the high dive at once. This horse is now a trained buckner. The first man up will probably be unloaded within ten seconds. If the high dive is a good one. So one can readily see that training a horse to buck is not training him at all. He is just as wild as



ever, but has been encouraged to be wilder.

Put in this same sense of the term all bucking horses are more or less trained buckners. They are used for that one purpose and that one only. Take horses like Steamboat and Angel, Long Tom, Bunker Bean, Spike Hennessey, Hot Foot, Black Diamond and others of the Pendleton Roundup, whose only value is in their bucking ability, and this makes them far more valuable than the cow pony, saddle horse or plow horse. In fact they are worth more than the ordinary horse simply because they can buck.

No one can say for sure what an outlaw is going to do, but it is a lead pipe cinch that whatever he does he will do with all his might. For that reason the outlaw is the top-notch, the highest priced buckner in the business. By studying the action of the horse one can get some idea of what body as if going to kick out good and strong. But the horse is not going the term "high dive" means. Notice the picture of Minor on the outlaw Angel. This is the concluding step in the second phase of the high dive. You will see that the horse has all four feet off the ground, the front feet extended forward with stiff knees and the hind feet drawn up under the to kick and doesn't kick. While the horse is in that position, free from the



ground, the entire body wiggles with a swift undulating side motion from shoulders to tail, something like a dog shaking itself after coming out of the water. And you must remember that the horse is in the middle of a high spring or jump into the air. Now if this movement does not dislodge the rider, Angel swirls the ground with all four feet, swirls half way round, makes a side spring into the air, goes through the same performance and is done. That is all there is to the famous high dive, but any rider will tell you that that is a deep and abiding plenty.

Look at the picture of Long Tom. He is doing what is known as the side wind. That is his special stunt. It is not as showy a stunt as the high dive, but when performed according to Hoyle's no man can stick it out. This side wind is performed as follows: Long Tom takes a straight away run for ten or fifteen jumps, just as if he was going to run an ordinary race. Then without warning he springs into the air to one side, strikes the ground with all four feet thrown from under him to one side, springs into the air and comes down with his feet thrown out in the opposite direction. He is generally leaning so far over when he strikes the ground at the conclusion of one of these side-winds that the rider tumbles off on his head.

Cake-walking or hot-footing is one of the most showy stunts in the whole category. This picture of Hot Foot shows the principal feature of this stunt. Hot Foot will do this every time, for she will come down and go up with a side motion and a straight away buck in between, but she will remain on her hind feet for from five to ten seconds, which makes it very spectacular.

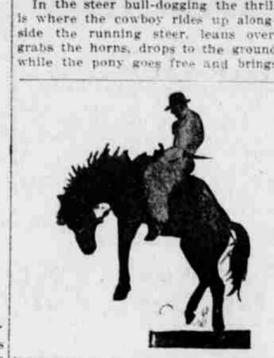
Even the best bucking horses will not "work" every time. When a horse refuses to work there is nothing that can be done except take him out of the list. You can't make them work. Old teamer was mounted forty times last year, and worked only three times. When they refuse to work there is always danger of making a run-away or a fall back out of them if forced continually in the list. And either a run-away or a fall back is worthless as a bucking horse. The run-away is easily understood. The horse instead of bucking simply runs away. If he does this two or three times he is soiled and will run away every time thereafter. So great care is taken not to make run-aways of good buckners.

The fall-back is the most dangerous of all bucking horses. Take the outlaw and the trained buckner. They are determined to unload their rider. They put forth every effort and go through every stunt they know to ac-

complish this. It requires perhaps thirty or forty seconds for them to go through their repertoire. At the end of that time if they have not unloaded their man or he has not been picked-up they become frantic and begin rearing on their hind feet and will throw themselves backward if the man persists in staying on. One or two of these fall backs with a man in the saddle and the horse is ruined for he learns that that is the easiest and quickest way of unloading the rider. Consequently they are very careful never to allow a good buckner to work to exceed forty-five seconds. The history of the range is replete with instances where men have been killed outright by fall-back horses.

Roping the wild steer, throwing him or "busting" him, and the hog tying him, is an art that is as old as the west and the cow country, but it has the same fascination, the same appeal to all classes. What the people like about this exhibition is the dash of the cowboy swinging his lariat, the swish of the rope, the drop over the horns, the slipping of the hondo, and then the intelligence of the cowpony as he holds the rope taut, giving and taking just as the occasion demands, while the rider on foot throws the steer by falling him down if he has not been busted. The tying-process is not interesting to

the running steer to a stop, and bare handed throws him to the ground and holds him with his teeth. It is from this sport that the terms, "bite 'em lip," "hook 'em cow," and others are derived.



except a natural reproduction of every day western life, a performance in which the actors have not one bit of training, an exhibition in which the climaxes are not worked up to but come unexpectedly and without any previous intimation. Merely a page out of the life of the old west that has been painted on canvas, pictured in books and story since American civilization began but still has the same undefinable charm and attraction and loses none of its allurements in retelling or reacting.



In the relay races one can easily understand wherein the appeal lies. In these races with their quick changes of mounts and saddles, more depends on the ability of the rider, his or her skill and strength, than in the speed of the mounts. A good string of horses is necessary but the prime requisite is a good rider.

These are the features, the big and prominent features of the Round-up that have the pull and the punch. And just why they do have it is a question that will never be answered for hundreds upon leaving the grand stand have been asked to tell what there is in the exhibition that appeals to them and what the appeal or emotion is and not a single one has ever been able to answer it either to his own satisfaction or the satisfaction of any one else. It is simply there, irresistible and unfathomable, but as strong and persistent as the call of the wild, and the thousands



who make the journey to the Round-up at Pendleton suffer the same emotions, thrills, and pleasure and go away with the same undefinable vague and unappreciated yearning for more and more of it, and yet it is nothing



CHAPS (AND) SPURS

No, Constance, a broncho is no relation to the tango. But the movements of the one might be an inspiration to the devotees of the other.

The bucking stock of the Round-up were quarreling in their paddocks. "If you'd get a wiggle on you, you might amount to something as a buckner," said Sunfish Molly to Buck, the bull buffalo. "Did you ever try getting a hump on yourself?" was the reply of the prairie monarch.

Le Page's grin should help some in acquiring a close seat.

Hell hath no fury like an outlaw ridden.

"Papa," said Young America, "what do they mean by 'pulling leather'?" "That, my son," said the father who was also a husband, "is what your

mother does when she goes through my pockets at night and gets my purse."

"Hotfoot, Lightfoot, Long Tom, Wiggle, Sounds like a college yell."

"Every little movement has a meaning all its own" is the official song of the bucking broncho.

A buck in time saves nine, sayeth Lightfoot.

"Every man has a right to hold his own," said the cowboy as he grabbed the horn of his saddle.

"Do you think you can stay on Long Tom's back," said the chaps to the saddle. "It's a cinch job," was the rejoinder.

By watching an apple fall, Newton discovered the law of gravitation. We wonder what would have been the result in Sir Newton's philosophic mind if he had seen a buckaroo propelled from the back of a broncho.

"That steer's got my goat," said Hank McGrath last year when one of the Texas long-horns impaled his mohair chaps which were hanging on the fence.